

NOTE

First Records of the Genus *Noserus* LeConte (Coleoptera: Zopheridae) in Mexico

The genus *Noserus* LeConte 1862, is characterized within the subfamily Zopherinae by having the two apical segments of the antennae fused and by the presence of a shallow but marked short hypomeral groove that does not completely contain the antennae while in repose (Doyen and Lawrence, 1979, Systematic Entomology 4: 333-377). The genus includes a group of poorly defined species (probably all synonyms) closely allied to *Noserus plicatus* (LeConte 1859) all restricted to California (Casey, 1907, Canadian Entomologist 39: 29-46; Casey, 1907, Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences 9: 275-522), and *Noserus emarginatus* Horn 1878, a well defined species only known from Texas (Horn, 1878, Transactions of the American Entomological Society 7: 51-60).

In a study of Zopheridae in the entomological collections of the Essig Museum of the University of California at Berkeley (EM), and the California Academy of Sciences of San Francisco (CAS), we had the opportunity to examine a few Mexican specimens of *Noserus*. Those samples include specimens of *N. plicatus* from the State of Baja California Norte, *N. emarginatus* from the States of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas, and a new species in process of description by the authors, from Nuevo León. In this note we report the first data available for both *N. plicatus* and *N. emarginatus* from México.

*Noserus plicatus* (LeConte 1859): México: Baja California Norte: La Zanja, Sierra San Pedro Mártir, 16-VI-1953, 1 specimen, J.P.Figg-Hoblyn leg. (CAS).

*Noserus emarginatus* Horn 1878: México: Nuevo León: Chipinque Mesa, 29-VIII-1969, 2 specimens, J. T. Doyen leg., J. Had-dock (EM); México: Tamaulipas: 20 mi N

Ciudad Victoria, 17-VII-1955, 2 specimens, Derham Giuliani leg. (CAS).

*Noserus emarginatus* differs considerably from *N. plicatus* in external appearance, and it resembles in many aspects some species of the Neotropical genus *Nosoderma*. The presence of dense dorsal velvety vestiture and the absence of a well defined tarsal groove in *N. emarginatus* are also widespread characters in *Nosoderma*. The phenetic similarity between *Noserus* and *Nosoderma* and the lack of marked diagnostic features do not favor the recognition of *Noserus* as an independent taxon. However, this taxonomic decision must await a revision of the morphologically diverse genus *Nosoderma*. *Noserus emarginatus* is a geographically variable taxon that may include more than one species.

*Noserus* and *Nosoderma* have not been found in sympatry, although contact between both taxa is expected in cloud forests of southern Tamaulipas. *Nosoderma* has been reported from the State of Veracruz in the Atlantic versant of Mexico (Champion, 1884, Biologia Centrali-Americana, Insecta, Coleoptera (Heteromera), vol. 4, part. 1: 1-88; Doyen and Lawrence 1979), and in the State of Jalisco along the Pacific Coast (Rivera-Cervantes and Morón, 1992, Folia Entomologica Mexicana 85: 65-76). Contact between *Nosoderma* and *Noserus* in the Pacific regions of Mexico is unlikely, since the southernmost record for *Noserus* is located in the northern regions of the Peninsula of Baja California.

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